

SEPTEMBER 24, 2017



# TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ISAIAH 55:6-9

PSALM 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

PHILIPPIANS 1:20C-24, 27A

MATTHEW 20:1-16A

## REFLECTION

Today's Gospel reminds us that there are many things about God that we do not understand because of our human limitations. In his parable about the vineyard owner and workers, the owner pays the workers who have worked for an hour the same as those who have worked an entire day. "The last will be first, and the first will be last" (v. 16). In today's society, this practice is truly unheard of. No one who works only one hour would expect the same pay as someone who puts in a long, laborious day. It just doesn't seem fair.

In this passage Jesus is teaching us something about God. Jesus uses this story to help us better understand that God's generous love and justice are far, far different from our human standards. It is so different that it is almost unheard of in our world today. We cannot understand God's infinite love and generosity. God offers the same welcome to the sinner as to the saint. He walks with the angry as well as the joyful. He offers the exact same love for the last to turn to him as the first.

## ACTION

Pay it forward this week. Put some of your skin in the game. Do something incredibly generous for someone. Perhaps you can pay for the person behind you in the drive-through at McDonald's. Perhaps you can make sandwiches with your family and distribute them to people in your community who are without home. Perhaps you can be generous with your time and spend time with your family. Do something together.

## JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- Recall a time when you or someone you know displayed generosity beyond human understanding. What happened? How did you feel in this moment?
- What would the world look like if we worried less about what is "fair" in our own eyes and considered how we could show Christ's love and compassion to our neighbors?
- How will you be generous this week?